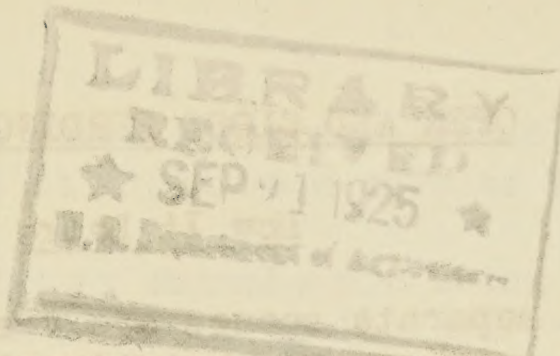


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

OPEN AND CLOSE HERDING OF SHEEP

An exhibit consisting of two light boxes showing in contrast through actual models examples of open herding and close herding of sheep and the effects of each on the range.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 9 ft. wide by 3 ft.
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping weight - - - - - 590 lbs., 2 boxes.
Electrical Requirements - 150 Watts for 2
lamps.

OPEN AND CLOSE HERDING OF SHEEP

How It Looks

Two separate scenes are visible through the windows of two separate but identical light boxes, the one showing a band of sheep evenly distributed over a green slope well carpeted with forage, the other showing a similar band crowded up on a manifestly overgrazed range. The damage to the forage in the latter instance is clearly the result of trampling more than of grazing.

The boxes are of oak and are attractively finished.

They are illuminated by invisible electric lights which may be plugged in on any 110-volt circuit.

What It Tells

Because of the fact that sheep can not be turned out and allowed to graze at will on the open range, but must be controlled by herders and directed in their courses across a grazing unit, the manner in which they are distributed and the number of times they feed across a given area are important in maintaining the productivity of the range. The ease with which small groups of sheep stray from the main band and become lost or fall victims to predatory animals has led to a tendency among herders to keep their sheep closely bunched and to use dogs too much. This has resulted in injury to the range. It has been estimated that in some cases much more forage has been destroyed through trampling than was consumed as feed by the sheep. Within a very few years this damage to the range is reflected in reduced carrying capacity and, as a result, in less valuable lambs.

Open herding, especially if accompanied by bedding out instead of returning each night to a central camp, results in less damage to range and in better lambs. It is a well established fact that losses from predatory animals and "cuts" are no greater under this

bedding out system than where the sheep are held in close masses and bedded at night on a more or less permanent bed ground.

Losses from predatory animals are being reduced further through the work of U. S. Biological Survey hunters and trappers.

Where to Get Information

The following publication may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

U.S.D.A. Bulletin 791 - Plant Succession in Relation to Range Management

The following publications are sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., at the prices given.

U.S.D.A. Bulletin - 700 - Climate and Plant Growth in Certain Vegetative Regions. Price 15 cents

U.S.D.A. Bulletin - 790 - Range Management in the National Forests. Price 35 cents.

